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THE HONORABLE DARRELL ISSA

Honoring Radm. Leender R. Herring, Sr.

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Navy are exceptional.

Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. Rear Admiral Leendert "Len" Hering, Sr. is one such leader.

Radm. Hering was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and commissioned through the NROTC Scholarship Program from State University of New York Maritime College in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology and Oceanography. He has also earned a Master of Science degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and a Master of Science degree in Business Management from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island.

Rear Admiral Hering's initial sea assignment was aboard USS SANTA BARBARA (AE 28), where he served as 1st and 2nd Division Officer and Assistant First Lieutenant. Upon completion of Department Head School in 1980 he was assigned to the commissioning crew of USS FAHRION (FFG 22) as Ship's Control Officer and later as Combat Systems Officer.

He had command of USS ARIES (PHM 5) from January 1989 to January 1991 and USS DOYLE (FFG 39) from July 1995 to March 1997. DOYLE was a member of the Vinson Battle Group in Desert Strike; the ship earned the Battle "E," all possible departmental awards, the 1996 Chief of Naval Operations LAMPS Safety Award, and two TYCOM Safety Awards.

His assignments ashore include duty as operations and plans officer to Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWELVE; aide and administrative assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Naval Warfare; Action Officer, Pacific Command Branch J-33, Joint Operations Directorate, Joint Staff; 1st Battalion Officer and Ethics Instructor, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland; Commanding Officer of Naval Base San Diego; Commander, Naval Surface Group Pacific Northwest; Commander, Navy Region Northwest, and presently Commander, Navy Region Southwest.

Rear Admiral Hering's personal awards include (2) Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, (4) Meritorious Service Medals, and various other personal achievement, service awards and ribbons. He and his wife Sharon have three boys. STS1 Lee Hering, USN, Tim, and Christopher.

On the occasion of his retirement and on behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Rear Admiral Leendert R. Hering.